

Sister City E-Blast September 2013



Right: Members of the 2013 student delegation in Hanamaki

20th Anniversary Sister City Celebrations will be held throughout the fall. A 14 member citizen delegation will travel to Japan September 7-15 in order to celebrate the anniversary in Hanamaki. There will be two delegations visiting Hot Springs this fall. Mayor Oishi and several community leaders will come October 18-21. A second delegation made up of runners and artists will be here to take part in the Spa 5k/10k and an invitational art show at Hot Springs Fine Arts Center celebrating the poem, "Strong in the Rain" by Kenji Miyazawa. The itinerary is still to be planned. Please contact Mary Neilson, the program coordinator, at hotspringsistercity@yahoo.com to volunteer.

Three Summer Educational Exchange

This summer three groups took part in educational exchange programs visiting Hanamaki.

A grant from the Japan Foundation enabled a group of 25 ASMSA students and chaperons to visit Japan and were able to spend a portion of their stay at the Hanamaki Agricultural School.

The annual Sister City Foundation Teacher delegation traveled to Hanamaki in June. This year's group was made up of Dawn Shinn, Samantha Pulz, and Katherine Combs from Lake Hamilton, and Bernice Lowery from Langston. For more on the teacher's experiences http://www.cityhs.net/residents_sister_city.html.

The annual student delegation was made up of 11 students from across Garland County and traveled to Hanamaki in July. The students were chaperoned by Clif and Kristina Coleman.

While in Hanamaki members of the delegations stayed with host families, visited area schools, museums, and were able to experience the hospitality and beauty of Hanamaki - a life changing experience.

Fall Student Visitors to Hot Springs

There will be three student delegations visiting Hot Springs this fall. The first group will arrive on October 31 as part of an exchange funded through the Japan Foundation that enabled a group of 25 from ASMSA to visit Japan this summer and will bring 25 from the Hanamaki Agricultural school to visit ASMSA.

The second group of students, made up of 6 junior high students and 3 students from Hanamaki Higashi, sister school to Lakeside will be in Hot Springs Nov. 1 - 10. The junior high students will need host families from school districts throughout the county and will visit area schools during their stay. Since both of these groups will be in town at the same time a joint event is planned at Mid-America Science Center on November 2, 11a.m. - 1 p.m. The event will feature art exchange at the "Tinkering Studio" using origami paper and duct tape - materials used in arts and crafts to create art and invention.

The final delegation will be made up solely of students from Hanamaki Higashi High School will visit Hot Springs in late November, the dates are still being finalized.